



**Start of No Jewish sports festivals  
this year.**

**AR 4824**

Sys #: 000196823

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AR 4824

V/I

No Jewish sports festivals this year, 1939

B28/4

Organisationen

Makkabi

(Doc. B 22/5)  
AR-A.1571

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1. "No Jewish Sports Festivals This Year"  
Circular Maccabi World Union, published  
in "Hakoah in Emigration" Nr.16 London  
May 25, 1939 photocopy of multigr lp

1.Name 2.Makkabi 3.Maccabi

Wajithalehu migoj el-gej uminamlachah el-am acher.

And they went from nation to nation and from kingdom to another people.

Und sie zogen von einem Volk zum andern und von einem Königreich zum andern Volk.

I, Dibre Himin (Chronica) 16,20.

### NO JEWISH SPORTS FESTIVALS THIS YEAR.

The Maccabiah should not only be the coronation of all Maccabi work, but the external symbol of Jewish unity and of unbroken vigour in the hardest of times.

Should overwhelming reasons forbid the performance of the Maccabiah, at least another Jewish sports festival ought to unite the Jewish youth for the same purposes. It would only be "Ersatz", but an important and an efficient one; this would be sad for the sportsmen themselves, but for the world, observing Jewish work, it would not make so great a difference whether our youth meets in Erez Israel or somewhere else to prove their strength and their invincible desire for their own land and freedom.

It was therefore a hard and long delayed decision of the Maccabi World Union to cancel these festivals definitely. There are four reasons - each alone of great importance - which together forced the World Union to their final resolution.

The political reason. Owing to the world situation it was quite impossible to find a country which would be prepared to grant visa for a sufficient number of athletes, not to speak of spectators or even of officials. Therefore the planned festival would have been a small local one and not a world-wide performance which alone could demonstrate the intended aim.

The financial reason. Neither a Maccabi branch nor the World Union itself were able to take the financial responsibility under those conditions. Only the smallest portion of Jewish sportsmen (and not the bulk of them, as it would be necessary) would have been the attending competitors.

The sporting reasons. The small number of athletes would not even have been the best ones. The members of some of the most efficient branches are distributed over the whole world, nearly all out of training. A Jewish festival without many of the best competitors would be more detrimental to Jewry than of world propaganda.

The moral reason. Many Jews and non-Jews would not understand why we should spend money - comparatively high sums - while every penny is needed to help our brethren in the hell, and in the now Diaspora. This would compensate the propaganda expected for the cause of Jewry.

Why talk so much! The Jewish Sports Festivals desired by all our swimmers will not be held. As a small compensation the Maccabi World Union will probably order a "DAY OF THE MACCABI", to take place in August, when every branch and every club shall perform their own festival and when every single Maccabi shall feel his relations with our ideas.

To the swimmers of Hakoah this order will not be new or alien: The connection and comradeship with Maccabi and with one another is so deep and firm that we do not need a confirmation. For us it means:

Every day a "Day of the Maccabi"!



**End of No Jewish sports festivals  
this year.**

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